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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/868,515	06/18/2001	Klaus Schelberger	49651	1391

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EXAMINER

JIANG, SHAOJIA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1617

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicant(s)

09/868,515

Examiner

Shaojia A. Jiang

Applicant(s)

SCHELBERGER ET AL.

Art Unit

1617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6 and 11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This application is a 371 of PCT/EP99/09803.

This application claims priority to Germany 198589115.

Applicant's preliminary amendment and response to the Restriction Requirement in Paper No. 5, submitted January 29, 2002 is acknowledged, wherein the specification herein has been amended as to pages 3, 10, 13, and 16-17, and claims 2-10 are amended, and claim 11 is newly added. Currently, claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

Applicant's declaration (of Dr. Eberhard Ammermann, one of inventors) submitted January 29, 2002 in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of the invention of the species of compounds Ia and II 79, in Paper No. 5 submitted April 30, 2001 is acknowledged.

Claims 6 and 11 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

The requirement is therefore made FINAL.

The claims have been examined insofar as they read on the elected specie.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The instant claims are drawn to the employment of a combination of active agents in "a synergistically effective amounts" (see instant claim 1). The instant specification fails to provide information that would allow the skilled artisan to practice the instant invention without undue experimentation. Attention is directed to *In re Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (CAFC 1988) at 1404 where the court set forth the eight factors to consider when assessing if a disclosure would have required undue experimentation. Citing *Ex parte Forman*, 230 USPQ 546 (BdApls 1986) at 547 the court recited eight factors:

- 1) the quantity of experimentation necessary,
- 2) the amount of direction or guidance provided,
- 3) the presence of absence of working examples,
- 4) the nature of the invention,
- 5) the state of the prior art,
- 6) the relative skill of those in the art

- 7) the predictability of the art, and
- 8) the breadth of the claims.

Synergistic or superadditive effects for combinations of compounds are highly unpredictable. In the instant case there is insufficient guidance or working examples in the specification showing amounts and particular agents to be combined which achieve synergistic effects by the fungicidal composition in the method for controlling fungi herein. The declaration of Dr. Eberhard Ammermann submitted January 29, 2002 in Paper No. 5, has been considered but is ineffective to demonstrate any synergistic effects produced by the combination. For example, e.g., on page 4 of this declaration, the degree of the combination of Ia and IIa is 100 which merely shows less than additive effects, compared to the control for Ia and IIa. The evidence in the declaration and specification is not seen to show clear and convincing synergy for any combination of agents within the claims. Therefore, in view of the unpredictability of such synergistically effective amounts of the claimed combination, the guidance in the specification is considered insufficient to show one of skill in the art how to practice the claimed invention without undue experimentation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 1617

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "harmful" in claim 10 is a relative term which renders claim 10 indefinite. The term "harmful" is not defined in the specification and claim. The scope of the claims is indefinite as to the harmful fungi encompassed thereby.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwalge et al. (WO 97/06681, PTO-1449 submitted June 18, 2001) and Kasahara et al. (WO 96/19442, equivalent to US 5,847,005, PTO-892).

Schwalge et al. discloses that the particular morpholine, IIa therein, (the elected species, Ia, herein), alone or in combination with an oxime compound in effective amounts is useful in a fungicidal composition and a method for controlling fungi. See abstract, page 1 lines 25-30 and page 9-11.

Kasahara et al. discloses that the particular oxime derivatives such as the elected species, II 79 herein in an effective amount (see Compound 376 in US

Art Unit: 1617

5,847,005, col. 21-22), is useful in a fungicidal composition for controlling plant diseases caused by fungi. See WO 96/19442: abstract, and equivalent to US 5,847,005: abstract, col.1 lines 9-36, and col.21-22 and testing in col. 50-53.

Schwalge et al. and Kasahara et al. do not expressly disclose the employment of the particular morpholine, Ia herein, in combination with the particular oxime derivative, II 79 herein, in a fungicidal composition and a method for controlling fungi.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the particular morpholine, Ia herein, in combination with the particular oxime derivative, II 79 herein, in a fungicidal composition and a method for controlling fungi.

One having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to employ the particular morpholine, Ia herein, in combination with the particular oxime derivative, II 79 herein, in a fungicidal composition and a method for controlling fungi, because the particular morpholine, Ia herein, alone or in combination with an oxime compound in effective amounts is known to be useful in a fungicidal composition and a method for controlling fungi based on the prior art. Moreover, the particular oxime derivative, II 79 herein, in an effective amount is known to be useful in a fungicidal composition for controlling plant diseases caused by fungi. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have reasonably expected that combining Ia herein and II 79 herein known useful for the same purpose in a fungicidal composition would improve the fungicidal effect for controlling fungi in plants.

Art Unit: 1617

Since all active composition components herein are known to be useful in a fungicidal composition, it is considered prima facie obvious to combine them into a single composition to form a third composition useful for the very same purpose. At least additive therapeutic effects would have been reasonably expected. See *In re Kerkhoven*, 205 USPQ 1069 (CCPA 1980).

Additionally, the teachings of Schwalge regarding the combination of the particular morpholine herein and an oxime compound therein known to be useful in a fungicidal composition further provides the motivation to make the present invention.

Thus the claimed invention as a whole is clearly prima facie obvious over the combined teachings of the prior art.

In view of the rejections to the pending claims set forth above, no claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to S. A. Jiang, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minna Moezie, J.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4612. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4556.

Art Unit: 1617

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-1235.

S. A. Jiang, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner, AU 1617
April 12, 2002



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